

Serial No. 10/690,733

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

This case has been carefully reviewed and analyzed, and reconsideration and favorable action is respectfully requested.

**CLAIM REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. 102(b)**

Claims 1-3, 6, 7 and 10 were originally rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Brickman (US-4,177,737).

**CLAIM REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. 103(a)**

Claims 1-3 and 11 were originally rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tseng (US-6,332,646) in view of Brickman (US-4,177,737).

In addition, claims 4 and 8 were originally rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brickman (US-4,177,737) in view of McDonald et al. (US-3,649,074).

However, the Examiner has pointed out that claims 5 and 9 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Responsive to this, claims 3-5 are deleted, and claim 1 is amended which is substantially the combination of original claims 1 and 3-5 so as to make the claimed invention more distinguishably patentable over the prior art references cited by the Examiner. In addition, claim 8 is deleted.

Additionally, claim 9 has been rewritten in independent form as new claim 12.

Accordingly, by the amendments, it is believed that the rejections of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) and 103(a) should be withdrawn, and the amended claim 1 and new claim 12 should be allowable.

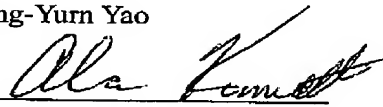
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It is further submitted that the claims 2, 6, 7, 9-11, 13 and 14 should be allowable as they are dependent upon the amended claim 1 or new claim 12 which are believed to be allowable.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that the application is now in a condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested. If any points remain in issue, which the Examiner feels could best be resolved by either a personal or a telephone interview, he is urged to contact Applicant's attorney at the exchange listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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